2009 Consumer Confidence Report
For 2008
Well Water Supply System
0030023

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In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Water Drinking Act to require annual reports to consumers on the state of the system that supplies their drinking water. Cities have to do this as well as small community systems like ours. It is supposed to make you more confident about our delicious well water.

1. Gramercy Limited Liability Corporation has an office number of (410) 486-2405. Please call if you have any questions. Ask for Anne Pomykala, Cristin Kline or Will Werley.

2. In 1999, we improved the well in the woods behind the Carriage House. In 2001, did the same for the well in the orchard. In both cases we replaced the 3000 gallon holding tank and the pipes to the well. We have replaced the pipes to the Memorial Building, the Kline residence and the Literacy House.

3. In 2005, we replaced the submersible pumps in both wells. One is designated as seven gallons per minute. The other is rated at five gallons per minute. If a pump removes water from the tube drilled into rock faster than it can seep back in, the pump will overheat and burn out.

It is easy to imagine the residents and guests using more than twelve gallons per minute. But our huge holding tanks supply enough at peak times. In fact, one well is enough to supply all of us.

One condition does cause problems: summer watering. Water can go out the hoses to our grass and gardens faster than the pumps can supply it.

If you ever notice that the water pressure is much lower than usual, please call the office.

4. The following definitions are required:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

5. Maryland Department of the Environment tests our water for about 115 chemicals and elements. They can't find a trace of any but the ones in the two charts. And, surprisingly, the state believes that the test for diphthalate (2-ethylhexyl) may give false results. "This contaminant is commonly found in laboratory blank samples. It should be noted that the method

for analyzing this contaminant was just starting to be used in 1995 and had many false positives." That was from the "Source Water Assessments for Small Community Water Systems in Baltimore County", a report prepared by the MDE in March, 2001.

Our water is exceptionally free of such contaminants as nitrate. Test results were less than 2.0 mg/L.

Allowable is 10 mg/L. Nitrates penetrate aquifers from excessive fertilizer on farmland. Our water comes from under trees, so our water will continue to pass our yearly tests with flying colors.

MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) received the yearly test for 2008 late for one of our two wells, They want you to know when reports are late.

Another test is for copper and lead. It isn't in the well water. It is dissolved overnight in your house. Some buildings have copper pipes. All faucets are made of brass.

The test collects water from your faucet in the morning. In years past we failed. Then we began running all our water through crushed limestone. Now we pass. To avoid lead and copper, run the water in the morning for a minute before you drink any.

We test each month for coliform bacteria. We have not failed any tests this year. We have no chronic problems with turbidity, smell, taste or color. If we switch wells or turn off the water to your building, there may be a temporary increase in sediment. If we work on the wells, we will add chlorine. For a day you may notice the same weak bleach smell that city water sometimes has. Run your water until it is gone. You may notice it in the hot water while you are showering.

MDE wants you to know when our monthly test is late. It happened once in 2008.

We do not monitor cryptosporidium, a microbial parasite. Typically it is found in surface water. It should not ever be a problem here.

Radon has been found in our water. Standards and rules have not been established yet. Until radon gas in water is proven to be a risk to water users, no programs to mitigate it will be required.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests telling you this: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can not see, taste, or smell. It is found all over the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities.

Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be as small source of radon in indoor air.

Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer.

If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in the air is 4 picocuries per litre of air (pCi/L) or higher. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800 SOS RADON).

6. The following statements are required:

> Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling E.P.A.'s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemo-therapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with H.I.V. / A.I.D.S. or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. E.P.A. / C..D.C. guidelines on appropriate contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water dissolves, naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:
-Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
-Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
-Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are byproducts of industrial processes, can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

-Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, E.P.A. prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

This concludes the required language.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Well (Orchard or Forest)	Date	Level Found	MCL (Max. Allowed)	MCLG (Goal Level)	Health Effects
Nitrate Possible Source: Runoff from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tanks Erosion of natural deposits	O O O	July 19, 2002 Dec. 4, 2007 Dec 18, 2008	1.2 mg/L 1.1 " 1.8	10	10	Infants below the age of six months who drink water in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and if untreated could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome
Nitrate	F	March 18, 2002	1.5 mg/L	10	10	See above
Nitrite Possible Source: Same as nitrate	F	March 18, 2002	.002 mg/L	1	1	Same as nitrate.
Diadipate (2-ethylhexyl) Possible source: Pesticide use on this or adjacent properties Pesticide spraying by state for gypsy moth, mosquitoes, etc. Laboratory error (see text)	F F	May 30, 2001 Aug. 14, 2007	.7 ug/L <1.5 "	4	4	Some people who drink water containing diadipate well in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience general toxic effects or reproductive difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer
Diphthalate (2-ethylhexyl) Possible source: Same as Diadipate	F F	May 30, 2001 Aug. 14, 2007	4.7 ug/L <0.5 "	6	0	Some people who drink water containing diphthalate in excess of the MCL over many years may have problems with their liver, or experience reproductive difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Contaminant	Location	July 2002	July 2007	July 2008	MCL (Max. Allowed)	MCLG (Goal Level)	Health Effects
Lead Possible Source: Corrosion of household plumbing systems	Carriage House	Too little to measure		.006 mg./l	.015 mg/L	0	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
	Gramercy	.012 mg/L	.005 mg/L	Too little to measure			
	Memorial Apartments	Too little to measure	.009 mg/L	Too little to measure			
	Literacy House	.005 mg/L	.007 mg/L	Too little to measure			
	Kline House	Too little to measure					
	Acorn		.011 mg/L				
	Honeybrook		.014 mg/L	.009mg./l			

Contaminant	Location	July 2002	July 2007	July 2008	MCL (Max. Allowed)	MCLG (Goal Level)	Health Effects
Copper Possible Source: Corrosion of household plumbing systems	Carriage House	.13 mg/L		.48 mg./l	1.3 mg/L	1.3 mg/L	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
	Gramercy	.084 mg/L	.074 mg/L	.049 mg./l			
	Memorial Apartments	.055 mg/L	.21 mg/L	.29 mg./l			
	Literacy House	.105 mg/L	.31 mg/L	.23 mg./l			
	Kline House	.041 mg/L					
	Acorn		.59 mg/L				
	Honeybrook		.42 mg/L	.30 mg./l			

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Well (Orchard or Forest)	Date	Level Found
Sodium	O	April 22, 1999	4.71 mg/L
Radon 222	O	June 7, 2000	3190 pCi/L
Sodium	F F	March 18, 2002 April 3, 2008	3.2 mg/L 3.2 "
Chloroform	F F	May 30, 2001 Aug. 14, 2007	1 ug/L <0.5 "